



Above: The W196, built for the 1954 2.5-litre GP formula, first appeared with all-enveloping streamlined bodywork but the car scored most of its wins as an open-wheeler like this. The lightweight spaceframe chassis carried all-independent suspension and a straight-eight engine with



CLASSIC FEATURES

When Daimler revealed the original Mercedes model in 1901, it caused a sensation and set new world standards in motorcar design. In engineering, it was the best car in the world. The significance of Mercedes and Mercedes-Benz models is that they have always been as good as this. At regular intervals, new racing or passenger cars have appeared which astonished the world. In 1914 it was the 274.6cu in (4.5 liter) Grand Prix car, in the 1920s it was the Porsche-designed super-charged sports cars, while in the 1930s there was the dominance of Grand Prix racing by the W25, W125 and W154 "Silver Arrows."

